

## Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D COPY (FOR TEXT)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR ANNENBERG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UK

SUBJECT: SPEECH BY NATO SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS TO REFORM  
CLUB, LONDON

1. ON JAN 25 I ATTENDED A DINNER AT THE REFORM CLUB WHEN NATO SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS WAS GUEST OF HONOR. HIS SPEECH ON THE CURRENT STATE OF TRANS-ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIPS WAS BRIEF AND PUNGENTLY POINTED; AND IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN NOTING THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF THE HIGHPOINTS.
2. MR. LUNS REGRETTEED THAT AS NATO APPROACHED ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY THE MEMBERS SEEM TO BE INDULGING IN A GREAT LUXURY WHICH COULD BE THEIR UNDOING - DIVISIONS AND RIVALRIES AND REPEATED FAILURE TO TAKE FULLEST ADVANTAGE OF THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS WHICH IS ONE OF THE ELEMENTS OF COHESION ON WHICH WE MOST DEPEND. IN THE FACE OF AN EVER-INCREASING BUILD-UP OF SOVIET MILITARY POWER IT IS DANGEROUS FOR EUROPE TO INDULGE ITSELF IN DIVISIVENESS AND NATIONAL WHEELING-DEALING. THE MIDDLE EAST WAR AND THE ENERGY CRISIS, AS WELL AS THE LACK OF UNITY OF COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES IN MONETARY AND ECONOMIC MATTERS, HAVE REVEALED EUROPE'S LACK OF COHESIVENESS.
3. DIGRESSING, MR. LUNS REGRETTEED THAT THE SO-CALLED "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE SHOWN ITS OLD

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VITALITY OVER THE PAST YEAR. UNLESS THE TREND OF

LESSENER INTEREST WERE REVERSED, THESE SPECIAL TIES COULD DISAPPEAR. STRONG MUTUAL LINKS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AND DEVELOPED. NOW THAT BRITAIN HAD JOINED THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, THE NEED FOR AN ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP WOULD BE AS IMPERATIVE AS EVER.

4. AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EUROPE TO SHOW A NEW SENSE OF UNITY AND PURPOSE WOULD BE PRESENTED NEXT MONTH WHEN THE PRINCIPAL ENERGY-CONSUMING NATIONS MEET IN THE UNITED STATES. LUNS HOPED THAT THE EUROPEAN PARTICIPANTS WOULD NOT BE HESITANT AND DIVIDED BY NARROW NATIONAL CONCERNS.

5. TURNING TO THE ISSUE OF CONSULTATION IN NATO, LUNS SAID THAT THE AMERICANS HAD ACKNOWLEDGED A SHORTCOMING OF THEIR CONSULTATIONS DURING THE OCTOBER WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD CHARACTERIZED AS AN EXCEPTION FROM WHAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS "STANDARD OPERATION PROCEDURE". NOW THIS EUROPE WHICH WAS CRITICAL OF THE AMERICANS FOR THEIR NEGLECT OF THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS, HAD SHOWN ITSELF CAPABLE OF THE SAME SORT OF NEGLECT. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE IN KEEPING WITH NATO PRACTICES TO HAVE AT LEAST INFORMED ONE'S PARTNERS OF IMPENDING SEPARATE OIL DEALS OR ARMS CONTRACTS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES. EUROPEANS CANNOT ASSIGN OBLIGATIONS TO THE UNITED STATES TO CONSULT EUROPE WHICH THEY ARE UNPREPARED TO ASSUME THEMSELVES.

6. LUNS WARNED THAT EUROPE CANNOT AUTOMATICALLY COUNT ON AMERICAN ASSISTANCE IN THE FACE OF THE SOVIET THREAT. IT WAS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN THAT THE UNITED STATES' INTERESTS OBJECTIVELY CONSIDERED WOULD REQUIRE THAT, WHATEVER THE COSTS, AMERICA MUST PROTECT AND COME TO THE DEFENSE OF EUROPE.

7. HE CONCLUDED BY CALLING ON THE EUROPEANS FOR REALISTIC ASSESSMENTS OF SOVIET POWER AND INTENTIONS, AS WELL AS REALISTIC JUDGMENTS ABOUT THE LIMITS OF WESTERN EUROPEAN STRENGTH AND THE NEED FOR THE CONTINUING AMERICAN CONNECTION.

8. MR. LUNS' SOBER REMARKS CLEARLY MADE A STRONG IMPRESSION ON HIS MAINLY EUROPEAN AUDIENCE.

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